

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DHA-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 SY-05
SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 /086 W
-----061747Z 051287 /47

O 261500Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3454
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL KINSHASA 4315

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CASC
SUBJECT: ARREST OF BRITISH, GERMAN, AND SPANISH JOURNALISTS

REF: (A) STATE 100274, (B) LONDON 7156, (C) LUBUMBASHI 244,
(D) KINSHASA 4241, (E) KINSHASA 4079, (F) LUBUMBASHI 253

1. SUMMARY: SEVEN FOREIGN JOURNALISTS, ACCUSED OF BEING SUSPECTED SPIES, WERE PARADED BEFORE NATIONAL, INTERNATIONAL PRESS AND A FEW MEMBERS OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS (BRITISH, SPANISH AND GERMAN) DURING 20 MINUTE "SHOW-AND-TELL" TV STUDIO SESSION CONDUCTED BY BG LIKULIA BOLONGO, FAZ AUDITEUR-GENERAL. AFTER EXPLAINING THAT THE SEVEN HAD BEEN ENGAGED IN "ESPIONAGE AND SUBVERSION," GOZ -- BECAUSE OF PRESIDENT MOBUTU'S "HABITUAL MAGNAMNITY," -- HAD DECIDED TO RELEASE THEM TO THEIR RESPECTIVE EMBASSIES FOR IMMEDIATE REPATRIATION. END SUMMARY.

2. "MOST FLAGRANT" CASE OF "ESPIONAGE AND SUBVERSION" INVOLVED FOUR SPANISH TV STAFFERS AND "OBSERVER" REPORTER COLIN SMITH,
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BG LIKULIA SAID. AS HE RELATED IT (READING FROM PREPARED SCRIPT), THE FIVE, ALL CAPTURED BY FAZ AT MUTSHATSHA" IN EARLY APRIL," HAD GONE TO ANGOLA WHERE THEY RECEIVED SPECIAL WISSE-PASSERS FROM THE MPLA. THEY THEN WENT TO ZAMBIA, WERE REFUSED ZAIRIAN VISAS BUT THEN RENTED A LAND ROVER AND CROSSED THE BORDER SOUTH OF MUTSHATSHA. UPON CAPTURE, THEY FIRST CLAIMED, SAID THE FAZ GENERAL, TO BE TOURISTS WHOSE DRIVER HAD ABANDONED

THEM AFTER THEY UNKNOWINGLY CROSSED THE BORDER. LATER, HOWEVER, THE FAZ RECOVERED THE VEHICLE (FILLED WITH THEIR EQUIPMENT, WHICH WAS ON DISPLAY.

3. GOZ EMBASSIES IN MADRID AND LONDON WERE THEN ASKED TO VERIFY THEIR CREDENTIALS AND IT WAS ESTABLISHED, ACCORDING TO LIKULIA, "THAT THEY REALLY ARE JOURNALISTS."

4. WEST GERMAN REPORTER AND FRENCH PHOTOGRAPHER FOR WEST GERMAN MAGAZINE "STERN" WERE ALSO ACCUSED OF HAVING ENTERED ZAIRE ILLEGALLY, MAKING CONTACT WITH PERSONS HOSTILE TO THE MOBUTU REGIME AND ALSO OF HAVING MADE CONTACT IN EUROPE WITH OPPOSITION LEADER "MUMBA, EX-RAPHAEL" BEFORE ENGAGING IN "ACTS OF SABOTAGE." NO FURTHER DETAILS GIVEN.

5. ALL SEVEN, WHO APPEARED TIRED, RATHER GRIMY BUT IN GOOD HEALTH, ARE TO BE RELEASED TO THEIR RESPECTIVE EMBASSIES FOR IMMEDIATE REPATRIATION BECAUSE OF PRESIDENT MOBUTU'S "HABITUAL MAGNAMNITY." BG LIKULIA NOTED, MOREOVER, THAT ALL SEVEN HAD BEEN TREATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROVISIONS OF THE GENEVA CONVENTION. NO QUESTIONS WERE ALLOWED AND THE JOURNALISTS WERE THEN ESCORTED OUT OF THE TV STUDIO.

6. IN QUICK BANTER WITH ANGLO-AMERICAN JOURNALISTS, SMITH SAID HE AND THE SPAINARDS WENT TO MUTSHATSHA BECAUSE THEY THOUGHT IT WAS CONTROLLED BY THE FAZ. HE SAID HE HAD BEEN KEPT IN A "COLD CELL," BUT OTHERWISE WAS NOT BADLY TREATED. "ARE THEY THROWING US OUT?" HE ASKED. WHEN TOLD YES, HE SMILED AND SAID, "GOOD" BEFORE LEAVING WITH THE OTHERS. IN HIS COAT

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POCKET: A PAPERBACK COPY OF THE NOVEL "CATCH 22."

7. PRIOR TO PRESENTATION OF ARRESTED JOURNALISTS, FRG EMBASSY HAD RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS MAY 6 TO DELIVER MESSAGE FROM FOMIN GEUSCHER TO NGUZA AND ANOTHER FROM CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT TO MOBUTU CONCERNING GERMAN REPORTER. GENSCHER MESSAGE RECALLED FRIENDLY RELATIONS EXISTING BETWEEN FRG AND ZAIRE, FRG ASSISTANCE IN ZAIRE'S HOUR OF NEED, NOTED HIS UPCOMING VISIT MAY 16 AND HE IMPLIED THAT IT MIGHT BE CANCELLED IF GOZ WENT THROUGH WITH PUBLIC HUMILIATION OF JOURNALISTS. CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE REPORTEDLY URGED THAT PUBLIC DISPLAY NOT TAKE PLACE AND CALLED FOR TRIAL OF JOURNALISTS.

8. ON MAY 5, FRG, UK, FRENCH AND SPANISH AMBASSADORS HAD MADE FORMAL DEMARCHE TO BULAMBO, CHEF DU CABINET, FONAFFS, AND TO NIMI, DIRECTOR OF THE PRESIDENCY REQUESTING JOURNALISTS NOT BE PUT ON PUBLIC DISPLAY. DEMARCHE WERE TO BE CONVEYED TO NGUZA AND MOBUTU. AS FAR AS WE KNOW, VARIOUS DEMARCHE RECEIVED NO OFFICIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, BUT IT WOULD SEEM GOZ

TOOK THEM INTO ACCOUNT AND DECIDED TO SIMPLY EXPEL THE
JOURNALISTS, RATHER THAN GO THROUGH WITH A TRIAL AS HAD BEEN
RUMORED.
WALKER

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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